The Member also suggested that a male and a female attendant be deputed in each hospital to wait on Cheramar patients and also touched upon the necessity of employing the members of his community in the public service.

President's reply .—With regard to your request to depute a male and a female attendant in each hospital to wait on Cheramar patients, the Darbar Physician will be addressed, and on receipt of his reply, Government will pass orders.

You say that scholarships should be given to the Cheramar students who are studying in the College and fee concessions to the members of your community. The question of giving fee concessions and scholarships is now under the consideration of Government.

Your suggestions for the nomination of two members of your community to the Legislative Council, the registry of lands in Kuttanad in the names of the members of your community, and the appointment of the Revenue Commissioner as the protector of the depressed classes, and your suggestions for giving appointments to the members of your community are noted.

113. The Administration of the Ayurveda Department.

Mr. Padmanabhan Martandan (Member, Chirayinkil taluk) began by observing that, though the Ayurveda Department came into existence long ago, it assumed its present shape only with the assumption of its headship by Mr. Sankara Menon. But the people were disappointed at the manner in which that department was being administered. The several institutions attached to the department were not productive of any practical good to the public. The students of the Ayurveda College were sent to the Hospital[4] and Pharmacy simply to make the public believe that practical training was being given to them. The Botanical Garden, intended to impart to the students a thorough knowledge in the identification of herbs, etc., was not in existence. The Member pointed out that the number of poor patients attending the Ayurveda Hospital was very low. Decoctions three or four days old were being distributed from that Hospital. The system of treatment known as the *Sodhana* treatment, a very important and effective system of cure, was not being followed in the Ayurveda Hospital. The Member said that the hospital did not serve the purpose for which it was intended, as the medicines were very few and even those few were quite useless.

The Pharmacy which should serve as a model institution in the preparation of the different varieties of medicines was a poor specimen of its kind. Valuable medicines such as *Dhanvantarataila* and *Kshirabalataila*, the preparation of which demanded considerable care, labour and expense, were not being prepared with the proper materials, and as a consequence they were being sold in the Pharmacy at low prices. A general impression had permeated the minds of the masses that the medicines in the Ayurveda Hospital were useless and as a result the faith in the Ayurveda system of treatment was gradually disappearing. The Member regretted that, in the Pharmacy, decoctions were being made from ingredients the essence of which had been already extracted. Many students who passed out of the Ayurveda College knew nothing about the preparation of medicines and much less about the method of treatment. He suggested that the Ayurveda Department should be placed directly under the supervision of a body of able and learned Pandits who would whole-heartedly work for the regeneration of Ayurveda.

In the matter of instruction that was being imparted to students in the Ayurveda College, the Member said that recently men with no knowledge of Sanskrit had begun to be appointed as teachers on the mere ground of their having passed the prescribed examinations. The syllabus of studies was, in many respects defective and the Member attributed it to the lack of knowledge and understanding of those who framed it. It was very strange that the Principal of a College,—the Ayurveda College,—should be getting a poor pay of Rs. 50, with practically no powers. The Member said that it was not because that there were no men capable of holding the post of the principal, but because Mr. Sankara Menon did not want them.

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Next the Member discussed at great length the difficulties experienced by the members of his community in the matter of securing posts in the Ayurveda Department. However much behind the times Ezhavas were in all other matters, they could with credit claim to be the most erudite so far as Ayurveda was concerned and yet the number of Ezhavas employed in that department was very small. He represented that Mr. P. M. Govindan who had been acting as a teacher in the Ayurveda College was not confirmed. Referring to examinations, it was stated that there were very few passes among Ezhava boys because the award of marks and promotion went by favour. In conclusion, the Member suggested the appointment of a committee to examine the present condition of the department.

The Assembly adjourned at 5 P. M.

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